

## Message Text

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12

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 COA-02 L-03

IO-14 SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CEQ-02

INT-08 DLOS-07 SMI-01 DODE-00 DRC-01 /118 W

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P R 140827Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3417

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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FOR COMMERCE (NOAA)

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, TBIO, AS

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION:

WHITLAM DECIDES TO OPPOSE TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM

REF: CANBERRA 3670

1. JUNE 14 FINANCIAL REVIEW REPORTS PRIME MINISTE

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WHITLAM HAS DECIDED THAT AUSTRALIA WILL "OPPOSE" TEN-

YEAR GLOBAL WHALING MORATORIUM IN FAVOR OF "WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF MORATORIUM PROPOSAL" AT IWC MEETING IN LONDON. ARTICLE STATES WHITLAM REVERSED PREVIOUS GOA SUPPORT FOR TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM AFTER RECEIVING DETAILED SUBMISSION PREPARED BY ARTHUR BOLLEN, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DOA, FORMALLY PRIMARY INDUSTRY).

2. NEWSPAPER REPORT APPEARED MORNING AFTER CUMES, DFA, TOLD E/C COUNSELOR (REFTEL) THAT GOA POSITION WAS STILL UNDETERMINED. EMBASSY OFFICER HAS DISCUSSED REPORT WITH PLATT, DFA, AND BODEN, DEPT. ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION (DEC). PLATT CONFIRMS ACCURACY OF REPORT AND SAYS DFA MOST EMBARRASSED THAT IT KNEW NOTHING OF DECISION, WHICH PM MADE AROUND JUNE 10, UNTIL AFTER OUR MEETING WITH CUMES. PLATT AND BODEN BELIEVE DECISION CANNOT NOW BE REVERSED. BOTH AGREE THAT "WATERED-DOWN VERSION" MENTIONED IN NEWS STORY REFERS TO AUTOMATIC SELECTIVE MORATORIUM (FALL BACK) PROPOSAL.

3. RESPONDING TO EMBASSY QUERY, BODEN RELUCTANTLY CONCEDED THAT DOA VIEW ON VOTING PROCEDURES (PARA 3, REFTEL) MAY BE CORRECT. PRELIMINARY AGENDA ITEM 10 FOR UP-COMING IWC MEETING IS ENTITLED "WORLD-WIDE MORATORIUM ON COMMERCIAL WHALING", AND IWC PROCEDURAL RULES REQUIRE 60-DAY ADVANCE NOTICE OF AN AGENDA ITEM BEFORE MEETING CAN CONSIDER IT. THUS, BODEN FEELS PRESENT AGENDA MAY PRECLUDE CONSIDERATION OF FALL BACK UNLESS IT IS MOVED AS AMENDMENT TO TEN-YEAR GLOBAL MORATORIUM PROPOSAL, AS DOA MAINTAINS.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: DFA AND DEC HAVE CLEARLY BEEN OUTMANEUVERED BY DOA ON THIS ISSUE. UNLESS U.S. DELEGATION AT LONDON CAN WORK OUT FACE-SAVING FORMULA WITH AUSTRALIA COMMISSION BOLLEN, WE MAY SEE AUSTRALIA PUT IN A POSITION OF ACTUALLY VOTING AGAINST TEN-YEAR MORATORIUM THIS YEAR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD STILL APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT AND NOAA'S ASSESSMENT OF DOA'S PROCEDURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POINT. DEC AND DFA, WHICH HAVE FAR LESS EXPERIENCE IN IWC MATTERS THAN DOA ARE KEENLY INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHETHER USG AGREES WITH DOA PROCEDURAL VIEW OR, ALTERNATIVELY, CAN REFUTE IT.  
GREEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** OCON, TBIO, AS, IWC-1  
**To:** STATE  
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